

The Honorable Richard H. Ringell
Magistrate Judge
Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Richard Ringell was installed as a Magistrate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia on September 16, 1999.

Judge Ringell was born and raised in Bronx, NY and received his Bachelor of Arts from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He obtained his Juris Doctor from American University's Washington College of Law in 1969. Following law school, he served as a lawyer for Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) in Cleveland, Ohio.

From 1970 until his appointment to the Superior Court, Judge Ringell practiced law as a sole practitioner. Initially, he served as a Criminal Justice Act attorney, representing indigent criminal defendants. Over the next several years, his practice evolved from court-appointed criminal cases to an extensive private practice. He handled both criminal and civil cases ranging from toxic tort litigation to drinking and driving.

Since his appointment to the bench Judge Ringell presided over the first community court in the tri state area, the District of Columbia D.C./Traffic Community Court (January 2002 – December 2005). The Court resolved many serious traffic matters as well as low level D.C. misdemeanors by addressing these offenses in a holistic, problem solving manner. Often cases would be disposed of and diverted out of the court system when defendants received and successfully completed substance abuse treatment and counseling and/or mental health assistance.

In 2007 Judge Ringell was assigned to preside over the first Driving under the Influence Traffic Court (DUI Court). Judge Ringell incorporated much of what was learned as Presiding Judge in the D.C./Traffic Community Court to the DUI Court. Judge Ringell's assignments have afforded him the opportunity to speak with various community groups in the District of Columbia.

Judge Ringell has resided in the District of Columbia since 1970. He served on the Mayor's Citizen Advisory Panel from 1993 to 1995 and was a founding member of the World Through Peace Law Center. Judge Ringell is married to Margo Vickers Ringell and is the proud father of two children. He also has been a "Big Brother" for close to twenty years.